

**IRONING DEVICE FOR UNCREASED-TROUSERS IRONING
MACHINES INCLUDING MEANS FOR IRONING THE TROUSERS
BOTTOM PORTION**

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to an ironing device for uncreased-trousers ironing machines, which ironing device includes means for ironing the 10 trousers bottom portion.

Prior trousers ironing machines conventionally comprise a supporting framework, including means for supporting the trousers at the pelvis level and gripping means which, in operation, 15 close the bottom portions of the trousers legs.

Uncreased or crease-free trousers are conventionally ironed by blowing water steam and hot air inside said trousers, which are suitably stretched in order to be evenly ironed through the 20 overall surface thereof.

The above mentioned trousers ironing machines, however, even they allow to satisfactorily iron uncreased trousers, have, on the other hand, the great drawback that they do not allow to proper iron 25 the bottom portions of the trousers leg, in particular at the regions thereof where operate the mentioned gripper elements.

In fact, as it is known, conventional trousers gripping means do not include heating and 30 steaming devices.

Thus, in prior ironing machines, the trousers pair, after a starting ironing operation, must be necessarily further ironed, by using a conventional flatiron, or a pressing ironing

apparatus, for properly ironing the bottom portions of the trousers legs.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

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Accordingly, the aim of the present invention is to overcome the above mentioned drawbacks, by providing an ironing device, to be applied to ironing machines for ironing crease-free 10 or uncreased trousers, allowing to properly iron, in a single operation, the trousers pair through the overall surface thereof.

Within the scope of the above mentioned aim, a main object of the present invention is to 15 provide such an ironing device allowing to fully iron a trousers pair in a single operation, and with optimum ironing temperatures.

Another object of the present invention is to provide such an ironing device, which, due to its 20 specifically designed constructional features, is very reliable and safe in operation.

Yet another object of the present invention is to provide such an ironing device which can be 25 easily made and which, moreover, is very competitive from a mere economic standpoint.

According to one aspect of the present invention, the above mentioned aim and objects, as well as yet other objects, which will become more apparent hereinafter, are achieved by an ironing 30 device, to be applied to uncreased trousers ironing machines, said iron device including ironing means for ironing the bottom portions of the trousers, and including a supporting frameworks supporting at least an ironing head including supporting means for

supporting said trousers at the pelvis level thereof and gripping means for gripping the bottom portions of the trousers, and being characterized in that said device further comprises a steaming drum coupled to a 5 heating circuit for heating said gripping means and to a steaming duct coupled to said gripping means.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

10 Further characteristics and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent hereinafter from the following detailed disclosure of an ironing device to be applied to uncreased trousers ironing machines, said ironing device including means 15 for ironing the bottom portions of the trousers, and being illustrated, by way of an indicative, but not limitative example, in the accompanying drawings, where:

20 Figure 1 is a schematic top plan view illustrating the ironing device according to the present invention applied to a trousers ironing machine including a single ironing head;

25 Figure 2 is a schematic view showing the steaming drum included in the ironing device according to the invention;

Figure 3 is a further top plan view illustrating gripping means for gripping the bottom portions of the trousers;

30 Figure 4 is a front elevation view illustrating the trousers gripping means;

Figure 5 is a side elevation view illustrating the gripping means;

Figure 6 is an elevation view illustrating an ironing machine including a single ironing head,

during a trousers ironing operation;

Figure 7 is a top plan view illustrating the single head machine shown in figure 6;

Figure 8 is a schematic broken-away view 5 illustrating the delivery manifold, and further clearing showing the heating circuit for heating the trousers bottom gripping means;

Figure 9 illustrates the delivery manifold and the steaming duct;

10 Figure 10 shows the trousers bottom gripping means and the steaming circuit at the inlet portion thereof;

15 Figure 11 shows the trousers bottom gripping means and the steaming duct and related outlet means;

Figure 12 is a further schematic view showing the trousers bottom gripping means and the heating circuit therefor;

20 Figure 13 is a further schematic top plan view illustrating an ironing machine including two opposite ironing heads;

Figure 14 illustrates the steaming drum of a two-head ironing machine;

25 Figure 15 is a front elevation view illustrating a two-head ironing machine, during a trousers ironing operation;

Figure 16 is a schematic top plan view illustrating the two-head ironing machine;

30 Figure 17 is a schematic view illustrating the circuitry of a four-head ironing machine;

Figure 18 schematically shows the steaming drum of a four-head ironing machine;

Figure 19 is a further schematic elevation view illustrating the ironing operation of a four-

head ironing machine; and

Figure 20 is a top plan view illustrating the four-head ironing machine.

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DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

With reference to the number references of the above mentioned figures, the ironing device, to be applied to ironing machines for ironing uncreased or crease-free trousers, and including ironing means for ironing the bottom portions of the leg of the trousers, comprises a supporting framework, generally indicated by the reference number 1, which can be made with several arrangements and, for example, can 10 comprise a single ironing head, generally indicated by the reference number 2, as is shown in figures 1 to 7 or, if desired, two opposite ironing heads, as shown in figures 13 to 16, or also four ironing heads, evenly circumferentially distributed and 15 continuously movable, as is clearly shown in figures 17 to 20.

At each ironing head, conventional supporting means for supporting the trousers 4 are provided, said supporting means operating at the 25 trousers pelvis.

Moreover, at the bottom portions of the trousers legs are provided gripping means, which are generally indicated by the reference number 10.

The main feature of the invention is that a 30 steaming drum 11 is provided, which communicates with a steam supplying duct 12.

At the top portion of the steaming drum 11, are moreover provided solenoid valves 13, the number of which will depend on the number of the ironing

heads provided on the ironing machine.

The mentioned solenoid valves 13 control a steaming duct, which is generally indicated by the reference number 14.

5 To the bottom of the steaming drum 11 is coupled a heating circuit, including a duct 20 for supplying steam to a delivery manifold, generally indicated by the reference number 21.

10 The overheated steam delivery manifold, in particular, is provided for conveying steam to the mentioned gripping means and, more specifically, to a left and right pressing elements 30 associated with the mentioned gripping means 10.

15 In the steam circuit shown in figure 8, steam is circulated under pressure inside one of said pressing elements and then it exits said pressing element 30, and returns to the steam manifold 21 and, from the latter, it is conveyed to the other pressing element 30 where it is circulated for heating it and 20 then returned to said steam manifold 21.

From said steam manifold 21, steam is conveyed to a condensate discharging duct, generally indicated by the reference number 31, provided for ejecting condensate to the outside environment.

25 Inside said steam manifold 21 is moreover provided a steaming duct, generally indicated by the reference number 14, supplying steam to the two pressing elements 30.

30 Said pressing elements comprise, in their inside, a steam overheating circuit 35, with steam outlet holes 36, arranged on the longitudinal extension of the pressing element 30.

As is clearly shown in figure 12, each pressing element 30 is held in a heated condition, by

causing overheated steam to pass through the overheating duct 37, which are supplied with steam at a pressure from 4 to 6 atm so as to have an operating temperature from 143 to 158°C.

5 By the above disclosed device, the steam, supplied through the steaming duct to the pressing elements 30, is overheated, after an expansion step following the outlet from the steaming drum 11.

10 Accordingly, the overheated steam is caused to impinge against the article being ironed with a high temperature, while eliminating any condensate materials, thereby properly ironing the trousers.

15 Owing to the above disclosed device, it is accordingly possible to fully iron the trousers pair also at the regions thereof affected by the gripping means.

The invention, as disclosed, is susceptible to several modifications and variations, all of which will come within the scope of the invention.

20 Moreover, all the constructional details can be replaced by other technically equivalent elements.

25 In practicing the invention, the used materials, as well as the contingent size and shapes, can be any, depending on requirements.